

## LA Community College District Blue Ribbon Panel Expands START



On Wednesday, January 27, 2016, LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell, Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) Members and Blue Ribbon Panelists gathered at East Los Angeles College to announce report recommendations for campus safety, including increased staffing for the LA County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Community College Bureau, increased training capabilities on campus safety and emergency preparedness, and the development of a comprehensive strategy to identify and respond to potential mental health threats to the colleges.

Speakers included LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell and Acting Director Dr. Robin Kay, Ph.D., Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH).

Since 2002, the LACCD has grown 22% physically and gone from 195,000 students to nearly 250,000.



In 2015, through an agreement with LACDMH, the LASD Community College Bureau attained the services of two full-time mental health clinicians who have been paired with a deputy sheriff, establishing a School Threat Assessment Response Team (START) for LACCD. In four months, that START received more than 96 referrals and completed 33 mental health threat assessments from college personnel, proving to be a positive

way to promote campus safety and behavioral health assistance.

Los Angeles Community College District is the largest in the nation and has a total enrollment of 225,942 students and more than 10,000 faculty and staff.